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XAAZ-27859

9 Nov 49  
to co/c, [illegible] Additional  
date of info prior to 1949

Chief, Contact Division  
ATTN : Alien  
Acting Chief, Seattle Office

Case 2291

2 December 1949  
Memo No. 369

REFERENCE: Washington teletypes 3505 of 15 Nov 49 and 3566 of 18 Nov.

1. Here are answers to requirements submitted as Case 2291 as per Washington teletype 3505 of 15 Nov 49:

2. Q. What special markings are used on the identity documents held by residents of the restricted border zone? Of the forbidden border zone? (Please give the Russian term for each type of document and zone mentioned.)

A. All identity cards (PASPORTS) throughout the USSR, in restricted and forbidden zones, are issued by the MILITSIA (police). All people who have not been removed from their domiciles by the secret police, or the so-called MVD, are entitled to PASPORTS, which are issued in the form of small booklets.

The residents of restricted border zones hold only the usual identity card, or PASPORT. No other identity papers are required unless the individual lives in a forbidden border area close to the state frontier. The usual PASPORTS are uniform throughout the country--except for serial letters and numbers which indicate the area for which the PASPORT is good. In the Leningrad region the serial is LG plus a number; in Moscow the serial is M plus a number; in Turkmen SSR it is TM plus a number. Throughout an entire region the letter designation is the same, but each individual has a different number. A family in Turkmen might have the following PASPORT serials: husband, TM3087695; wife, TM3087696; son (16 years or older), TM3087697; daughter, TM3087698.

PASPORTS for people permanently living close to the frontier (within 10 or 20 miles of the frontier) bear a red stamp (actually an inscription) across each page. The inscriptions, which extend from the lower left corner to the upper right corner, are made in the government printing office. This makes it impossible for the letters to be forged. The words inscribed are POGRANICHNAIA ZONA (Border Line). The inscription has no particular name, but is usually called OTMETKA O PROZHIVANII V POGRANICHNOI ZONE (or POLOSE), which means "mark of residence in the frontier line." MVD officers may have other official names for the inscription. The only difference between PASPORTS for restricted zones and forbidden border zones, is that the latter have the red inscriptions.

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2005

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to cc/c, *[illegible]* Add'l *[illegible]*  
d. *[illegible]* Mr. *[illegible]*

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Chief, Contact Division  
ATTN : Alien Acting Chief, *[illegible]* Office *[illegible]*, *[illegible]*

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The restricted zones, which vary in size (see below) are called ~~USOBAIA ZONA~~ or ~~USOBAIA POLOSA~~. The forbidden border zone is called ~~POGRANICHNAIA POLOSA~~ (literally, "border line zone").

The restricted zones are:

1. Siberia - East of the city of Irkutsk
2. Kazakh SSR
3. Turkmen SSR
4. Kirgiz SSR
5. Tadzhik SSR
6. Uzbek SSR
7. Azerbaijan SSR
8. Armenian SSR
9. Estonian SSR
10. Latvian SSR
11. Lithuanian SSR
12. Eastern Prussia, or the so-called Kaliningrad-skaia Oblast  
(The last four have been made restricted zones only recently).

3. Q. In a previous report it was stated that the words "border zone" are stamped across the inland passports of zone residents. What is the Russian terminology used? What MVD or MGB organ stamps the passports? What agency controls these documents after they have been used?

A. In addition to the regular PASPORTS, special certificates are issued to people living in the forbidden border zones. They are issued by the nearest headquarters of the border guard (POGRANICHNAIA OKHRANA). (The headquarters are called POGRANFUNKT, which means, literally, "border dot"). The certificates bear photographs for identification. The certificates are called ~~PROPUK NA PROZIVANIE V POGRANICHNOI ZONE~~, which means "pass for residing in the border zone." These must be renewed every three months. In order to obtain a certificate one must present the local MILITSIA with proof that he is a permanent resident of the border zone. The document issued by the MILITSIA shows the full name of the individual, his birth date, birth place, and vocation, and it certifies that he lives in a specified town or on a particular farm.

All PASPORTS (including those with red inscriptions) must be reviewed by the local MILITSIA after they have been completed. If all the information on the PASPORT agrees with that in the books of the MILITSIA, the PASPORT is stamped with the "MILITSIA registration stamp", or OTMETKA O PROPUKE.

4. Q. Are there border areas in which there is not distinction between a forbidden zone and a restricted zone? Where?

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A. There are border areas which there is no distinction between a restricted zone and a forbidden zone. This means that the whole area is regarded as forbidden, and that the entire area, regardless of size, is subject to the most extreme restrictions--usually applied only to the border line zone. The Karelo-Finnish SSR, which includes the former Karelian Republic and recently conquered parts of Finland, is one such area. This area begins at the border of the small town of Terioki, on the Leningrad-Viipuri (Viborg) Railroad, and extends to the railway station at Zvanka on the Murmansk Railroad. Everyone who lives in this area is required to have a "border line" PASSPORT (with a red inscription) and a certificate issued by headquarters of the border guards. Other areas in this category are Kaliningradskaia Oblast (Eastern Prussia and the former city of Koenigsberg), Estonian SSR, Lithuanian SSR, and Latvian SSR.

Russian citizens who do not live in a restricted zone are not allowed to travel in restricted regions without passes issued by the local MVD (BIURO PROFUSKOV RABOCHN-KRESTIANSKOI MILITSII MVD), permitting them to do so. In order to obtain such a pass an individual must be on an official business trip with orders to the restricted area from his factory or office.

Only natives or permanent residents of forbidden zones are allowed to live there or move about within the area. People living in one forbidden zone are not permitted to enter a forbidden zone in another part of the USSR.

Foreigners are not allowed to enter restricted zones. No one is allowed to enter forbidden zones unless it is to perform some unusual task on orders from the Moscow Headquarters of the MVD, the General Staff of the Red Army, or the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow.

5. 4. In border areas in which there are both forbidden and restricted zones, what is the depth of the forbidden zone from the border line? Of the restricted zone from the inner limit of the forbidden zone?

A. The depths of forbidden zones vary. Along the Far Eastern frontier the depth is about 100 to 150 kilometers. Along the Turkish, Iranian and Afghan frontier the depth is 25 to 50 kilometers. Along the Polish-Rumanian, and Czechoslovakian frontier it is less than 25 kilometers. Entirely forbidden regions (Karelo-Finnish SSR, Baltic countries, Eastern Prussia) are much larger: the depth there extends from the western borders to the eastern borders. This means that the forbidden areas start at the former boundaries of the Russian state: at the former Estonian-Russian, Polish-Russian, Latvian-Russian and Finnish-Russian frontiers. Thus, although these regions officially belong to Russia, the entire area which was formerly independent is now forbidden territory.

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The depth of restricted areas is much greater. All of eastern Siberia, east of the city of Irkutsk, is restricted. From Irkutsk the restricted zone extends to the nearest point on the Outer Mongolian boundary (a distance of about 300 kilometers), to the railway station at Otpor (on the Manchurian border), which is approximately 1,000 kilometers, and to Vladivostok, which is about 3,000 kilometers.

In addition to eastern Siberia, all Central Asian republics (Turkmen SSR, Uzbek SSR, Kazakh SSR, Kirgiz SSR, Tadzhik SSR) are restricted areas, and the Transcaucasian republics (Armenian SSR, Azerbaijan SSR) are restricted. Thus, keeping in mind the inner boundaries of the forbidden zones (which would be the outer borders of the restricted zones) one may determine the depth of the restricted zones by consulting a map of the USSR.

6. Q. What category of inhabitants may legally reside in each zone?

A. Inhabitants of restricted zones include all people who were born and reared there, and who are permanently established in that area. This includes such people as farmers on the local farms and workers in the factories and mines. In addition to these, all people who have been assigned to the area, such as doctors, teachers, workers, nurses, engineers, and professors of universities in the area, may legally reside there.

In order to obtain permission to move to a restricted zone and to establish a permanent residence there, one must apply to the local Bureau of Passes (BIURO PROPUSKOV) and show them his orders to the area. Without orders it is futile to apply. If everything is in order, permission to permanently reside in the area will be granted in approximately three weeks.

Another group of people residing in restricted zones are those who have been exiled or deported (to Central Asia and Siberia). These people are not allowed to live near the border of the forbidden zone. They are usually told where they are to live, and they are required to report to the local MVD every week.

Anyone who has been sent to a concentration camp must remain inside the camp.\* The camps are carefully guarded at all times to prevent anyone from escaping. The camps are situated far from the borders of the forbidden zones. They are located mainly in Yakutsk ASSR, Kamchatka, northern Siberia, and Central Kazakhstan.

The only legal residents of the forbidden zones are native farmers. These people have been carefully screened and checked by the MVD many times. All people who were considered undesirable by the MVD were moved out of the area long ago. The Soviets are anxious to remove the entire population from the forbidden zones and to completely close the areas. This will prevent people from entering the zones, and anyone who appears in the area will be

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seized immediately as a spy.

7. Q. May Soviet citizens visit large towns in the border zones, such as Stalinabad, with a special pass? What towns? Under what conditions?

A. Large towns close to the outer state frontier can be visited by Soviet citizens even though they are situated in the forbidden zones. Thus, Stalinabad, Ashkhabad, Baku, Erevan, Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, and some others are "restricted enclaves" in forbidden zones, and are exempt from restrictions imposed on forbidden zones. It is not necessary to obtain a forbidden zone pass to travel to these places--a restricted pass is sufficient. While in one of these cities it is not possible to visit small towns and settlements outside the city limits however, as the forbidden zone begins at the outer boundaries of the cities.

It is difficult to name the towns in forbidden zones which can be visited. In general, they include the following:

1. Capitals of republics in forbidden zones (such as Ashkhabad, Stalinabad, Baku, Erevan).
2. Capitals of big regions (KRAI or OBLASTS), such as Khabarovsk, Vladivostok, Komsomolsk, Petropavlovsk, Murmansk, and Frunze.
3. Important industrial cities or seaports, such as Batum, Krasnovodsk, Petropavlovsk on Kamchatka, and Blagoveshchensk on the Amur River.

A restricted zone pass is all one is required to have to enter a city in this category. Anyone who lives in the restricted zone nearest the city, and who already has a PASSPORT for that area, may travel to the city without asking for additional papers.

When one who is not a resident of the nearest restricted zone is sent to one of these cities by his factory or office, to perform a specific duty which will take some weeks or months, there is a set routine which he must follow. First he must get a paper certifying that he has orders from his office or factory to enter the town--with description of the duties he will perform there and the time he should remain there. He takes this to the local party committee for confirmation. He then makes application to enter the city at the local Bureau of Passes (BIURO PROFUSKOV) of the MVD, and about three weeks later he is granted permission to go to the city. Upon arrival there he must report to the MVD, and register with the local MILITIA. When he is ready to return to his permanent residence he must have his pass stamped by the MVD to certify that he was actually in the city during the prescribed time. When the individual returns to his home, he must take the pass back to the MVD office from which it was originally issued.

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